

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title and prior to the heading "Field of the Invention," please insert the following text:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of International Patent Application No. PCT/IB2004/003224, filed October 4, 2004, which claims the benefit of Italian Patent Application No. VI2003A000193, filed October 3, 2003, both of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

On page 1, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention is generally applicable to the field of human body supports and particularly relates to a viscoelastic support structure ~~as described in the preamble of claim 1~~ having improved energy absorption properties.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 28 and carrying over to page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

These objects, as well as other objects that will be more apparent hereafter, are achieved, ~~according to claim 1,~~ by providing a viscoelastic support structure having improved energy absorption properties, comprising a rigid or semirigid frame, at least one layer made of a resilient filler, a flexible covering having a surface of contact with the user, at least one gel insert interposed between the covering and the frame to interact therewith when the user exerts a stress thereon, characterized by providing, on the insert and/or the frame and/or the covering, a plurality of protuberances and recesses with respect to a mid-surface adapted to facilitate the deformation of the insert, in a direction transverse to the stress direction and/or essentially parallel to the mid-surface, to increase the energy that the insert is able to dissipate.

On page 4, please replace the heading provided on line 28 with the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

On page 5, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 7. Specifically, on line 7, please replace the numeral 4 with the numeral 3. The amended replacement paragraph is shown below:

The structure 1 has a rigid or semirigid frame [[4]]3 and at least one layer of a resilient filler 4, with at least one gel insert 5 located upon the frame 3. An upper covering 6 is further provided which defines the contact surface 2 and is adapted to cover the filler layer 4 and the insert 5.

On page 7, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 1. Specifically, on line 1, please replace the numeral 9 with the numeral 4. The amended replacement paragraph is shown below:

As shown in Fig. 1, the resilient filler layer-9 4 may be interposed between the frame 3 and the flexible covering 6 and may include an enlarged rear portion 14 for supporting the buttocks of a user, a front horn portion 15 and a central portion 16. A through cavity 17, which is designed to receive the insert 5, may be formed on the central portion 16 or on the enlarged rear portion 14. In this case, the through cavity (not shown) may be placed at the ischial bones of the user.